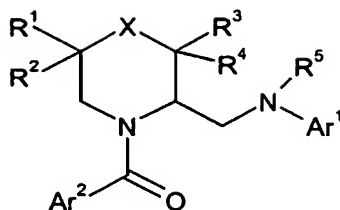


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

X is O, CR⁷R⁸, NH or bond;

R¹ and R² are both hydrogen, both optionally substituted (C₁₋₄) alkyl, or are together with the carbon to which they are attached form a (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl ring or a 4- to 6- membered heterocyclyl ring.

R³ and R⁴ are both hydrogen, both optionally substituted (C₁₋₄) alkyl, or are together with the carbon to which they are attached form a (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl ring or a 4- to 6- membered heterocyclyl ring;

R⁷ and R⁸ are both hydrogen, both optionally substituted (C₁₋₄) alkyl, or are together with the carbon to which they are attached form a (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl ring or a 4- to 6- membered heterocyclyl ring;

provided that one pair of R¹ and R², R³ and R⁴, R⁷ and R⁸ are both optionally substituted (C₁₋₄) alkyl, or are together with the carbon to which they are attached form a (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl ring or a 4- to 6- membered heterocyclyl ring and the remaining groups are hydrogen;

R⁵ is hydrogen, optionally substituted (C₁₋₄) alkyl, or optionally substituted (C₁₋₄)alkylCO;

Ar¹ is an optionally substituted aryl, an optionally substituted mono or bicyclic heteroaryl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

Ar² represents phenyl or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, wherein the phenyl or heterocyclyl group is substituted by R⁶ and further optional substituents; or Ar² represents an optionally substituted bicyclic aromatic or bicyclic heteroaromatic group containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

R⁶ represents hydrogen, optionally substituted(C₁₋₄)alkoxy, halo, cyano, optionally substituted(C₁₋₆)alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl group containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is CR⁷R⁸.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹, R², R⁷ and R⁸ are hydrogen when R³ and R⁴ are methyl or R³, R⁴, R⁷ and R⁸ are hydrogen when R¹ and R² are methyl.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein Ar¹ is pyrimidinyl or pyridinyl.

5. A compound according to claim 4 wherein the pyrimidinyl or pyridinyl is substituted with halogen.
6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein the halogen is bromine.
- 5 7. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 44, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any one thereof.
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 10 9. A method of treating or preventing diseases or disorders where an antagonist of a human orexin receptor is required, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 15 10. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of obesity.
- 20 11. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of sleep disorders.